

Greetings Vincent, Christine and those receiving testimony on CT Senate 647 and CT House 7184 -

I write in support of expanding the quantity of beer which can be purchased for off-premise consumption at out local Connect Craft breweries beyond the current 9 liters.

In my view, Connecticut residents who enjoy drinking craft beer should not be limited in the amount they can purchase at a brewery in no way greater than can be purchased at any other retailer of beer. It makes no sense to me from a personal freedom standpoint as well as from the desire to support these local businesses which burnish the reputation of our state in this traditional industry, bring tourists to the state and create jobs and tax revenue.

What's more, when I try to purchase craft beer at package stores or supermarkets here in Connecticut, I'm often presented with a lack of variety, much, much higher prices and beer that may be months old. Connecticut Craft Beer is meant to be consumed FRESH. Further, I also often encounter retailers hiding, limiting, and re-packaging or more difficult to find beers that may see limited distribution in the state. This experience stands in stark contrast to what happens when I visit my local brewery, which it is often an educational experience. I learn about everything from the new varieties of hops utilized, which farm the adjunct ingredients were harvested from (such as Dudley Farm or Leete's Farm both of which are in Guilford) and the fact that it is a State of CT law that prevents me from buying more than 19 pint-sized cans at a time.

I find it incredible that the State of CT has maintained such a protectionist law while CT based vineyards are able to retail an unlimited volume of wine to tasting room visitors. Taking this one step further, I often find myself in Massachusetts visiting breweries where they do not impose any type of volume limits. It's honestly shocking to see Connecticut, a state that seems to be financially strapped and losing residents left and right hold off on changing this regulation for so long based on the perceived "threat" to the retailer and wholesaler association. At the end of the day, I asked myself, who are we protecting by keeping this statute in place, and the answer was clear, it's not myself or my fellow consumers. Recent news reports indicate it's the businesses that contribute to the campaigns of our state senators and representatives.

Based upon the above I urge you, Vincent and Christine, to educate yourselves about the needs of your constituents and then advocate on behalf of the brewers, their employees and landlords and, especially, the consumers of craft beers in your representative districts (as well as those to be opening) and support the expansion of these limits.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

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